



**YUKON WORKERS'  
COMPENSATION  
HEALTH AND  
SAFETY BOARD**

SUBJECT: CLAIMS POLICY NO.: CL - 34  
BOARD APPROVAL: [Signature]  
APPROVAL DATE: 93-07-23  
BOARD ORDER NO.: \_\_\_\_\_  
EFFECTIVE DATE: 93-01-02

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

SECTION  
REFERENCE:

**14, 16, 28, 30, 44, 96**

*Revised Jan 1, 2000  
replaced by  
CL-34 Claimant and  
Witness Travel effective  
Jan 1, 2000*

POLICY:

### **CLAIMANT TRAVEL POLICY**

Travel expenses include transportation, accommodation, per diem for meals and incidentals and reasonable local transportation costs. The amounts which will be paid for these travel expenses are set by Board order.

#### **Travel by Claimants**

The Workers' Compensation, Health and Safety Board will pay travel expenses when the board requires a claimant to travel to obtain medical or rehabilitation services or to attend an appeal hearing.

Travel expenses will not be paid when it is the claimant's choice to appear at an appeal hearing.

#### **Travelling Companions**

The Workers' Compensation, Health and Safety Board will pay the travel expenses of a companion for a claimant who is required to travel to obtain medical or rehabilitation services or to attend an appeal hearing when the claimant is deemed physically, mentally or legally unable to travel alone.

The Claims Adjudicator, Rehabilitation Counsellor, Director of Client Services or Director of Claims shall exercise discretion as to whether a travelling companion is required.

#### **Travel by Lay Witnesses**

When the Internal Review Committee or Appeal Panel of the Board requires information from witnesses in order to make a decision on an appeal, they will first try to get the information through other means, such as a deposition or through a conference telephone call.

Travel will be paid as a last resort, when other options for obtaining information from a witness have not provided the information needed to make a decision.

When the Internal Review Committee or an Appeal Panel of the Board requests a lay witness to travel to attend an appeal hearing, the lay witness will be compensated for actual wage loss for regular time that would have been worked and travel expenses.

A Internal Review Committee may exercise discretion to call lay witnesses to a maximum cost of \$1500 for wage loss compensation and travel expenses. Where the cost is expected to exceed \$1500, the decision will be made by the President.

An Appeal Panel of the Board may exercise discretion to call a lay witness and to pay costs for wage loss and travel expenses.

#### **Alternative Mode of Travel**

Use of public transportation by claimants, travelling companions and lay witnesses is to be encouraged, when it is available and practical. The decision to allow alternate transportation is based on whether the overall costs and mode of transportation will impede the recovery and return of the worker to the workforce.

Authorization to use an alternate mode of transportation may be made on a discretionary basis by the Director of Claims, the Director of Client Services, a Claims Adjudicator or Rehabilitation Counsellor.

The kilometre rate to be paid when a person uses a private vehicle will be set by Board Order.

#### **Alternative or Private Accommodation**

Alternate or private accommodation will be allowed and paid for by the Workers' Compensation, Health and Safety Board as long as the combined costs for alternate accommodation, per diem and local transportation do not exceed the costs had the worker stayed in commercial accommodation.

Where it is preferable to stay in a residence attached to a medical or rehabilitation facility, no cost will be paid for alternate accommodation.